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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KORTTNEY ELLIOTT,) Case No. CV 22-3813 FMO (PVCx)

Plaintiff,)

v.)

ALMA LINDA MEJIA,)

Defendant.)

**ORDER DISMISSING ACTION WITHOUT
PREJUDICE**

On June 23, 2022, the court issued its Standing Order Re: ADA Accessibility Cases (see Dkt. 10, Court's Order of June 23, 2022), which ordered plaintiff to file a proof of service demonstrating service of the Complaint on all parties "within 93 days of the filing of the case absent a previously approved extension of time by the court." (Id. at 2). The court admonished plaintiff that "failure to file the proof of service within 93 days after the filing of the case shall result in the dismissal of the action and/or the defendant that has not appeared in the case and for which plaintiff has not filed a proof of service." (Id.) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 & 41(b); Link v. Wabash R.R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 629-30, 82 S.Ct. 1386, 1388 (1962)).

Here, plaintiff filed the Complaint initiating this action on June 3, 2022. (See Dkt. 1, Complaint). Accordingly, plaintiff was required to file a proof of service demonstrating service of the complaint on Alma Linda Mejia ("defendant"), no later than September 4, 2022. (See Dkt. 10, Court's Order of June 23, 2022, at 2). No such proof of service has been filed as of the date of this Order. (See, generally, Dkt.).

1 Rule 4(m) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that a court, on its own initiative,
 2 “must dismiss the action without prejudice” if service is not effected “within 90 days after the
 3 complaint is filed[.]” In addition, a district court may dismiss an action for failure to prosecute or
 4 to comply with court orders. Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); Link, 370 U.S. at 629-30, 82 S.Ct. at 1388
 5 (1962) (authority to dismiss for failure to prosecute necessary to avoid undue delay in disposing
 6 of cases and congestion in court calendars); Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir.)
 7 (district court may dismiss action for failure to comply with any court order). Dismissal, however,
 8 is a severe penalty and should be imposed only after consideration of the relevant factors in favor
 9 of and against this extreme remedy. Thompson v. Housing Auth. of Los Angeles, 782 F.2d 829,
 10 831 (9th Cir.1986). These factors include: “(1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of
 11 litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to
 12 defendants/respondents; (4) the availability of less drastic alternatives; and (5) the public policy
 13 favoring disposition of cases on their merits.” Pagtalanun v. Galaza, 291 F.3d 639, 642 (9th Cir.
 14 2002) (citing Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61); see Applied Underwriters, Inc. v. Lichtenegger, 913
 15 F.3d 884, 891 (9th Cir. 2019) (“By its plain text, a Rule 41(b) dismissal . . . requires ‘a court order’
 16 with which an offending plaintiff failed to comply.”). “Although it is preferred, it is not required that
 17 the district court make explicit findings in order to show that it has considered these factors and
 18 [the Ninth Circuit] may review the record independently to determine if the district court has
 19 abused its discretion.” Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1261.

20 Pursuant to Rules 4(m) and 41(b), and in light of the Pagtalanun factors, the court is
 21 persuaded that this action should be dismissed for failure to effect service within the specified time
 22 and comply with the Court’s Order of June 23, 2022. Plaintiff’s failure to timely file a proper and
 23 legally sufficient proof of service hinders the court’s ability to move this case toward disposition
 24 and indicates that plaintiff does not intend to litigate this action. In other words, plaintiff’s
 25 “noncompliance has caused [this] action to come to a complete halt, thereby allowing [her] to
 26 control the pace of the docket rather than the Court.” Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier, 191 F.3d 983, 990
 27 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal quotation marks omitted). Further, plaintiff was warned that failure to file
 28 a valid proof of service would result in a dismissal of the action for lack of prosecution and failure

1 to comply with a court order. (See Dkt. 10, Court's Order of June 23, 2022, at 2); see also Ferdik,
2 963 F.2d at 1262 ("[A] district court's warning to a party that his failure to obey the court's order
3 will result in dismissal can satisfy the consideration of alternatives requirement.") (internal
4 quotation marks omitted). Thus, having considered the Pagtalunan factors, the court is persuaded
5 that the instant action should be dismissed for failure to timely effect service, failure to comply with
6 a court order, and failure to prosecute.

7 Based on the foregoing, IT IS ORDERED that judgment be entered dismissing this action,
8 without prejudice, for failure to timely effect service, failure to prosecute, and failure to comply with
9 the orders of the court.

10 Dated this 9th day of September, 2022.

11 _____ /s/
12 Fernando M. Olguin
13 United States District Judge
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